

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants request clarification of the status of this application. The Office Action Summary indicates that the August 16, 2005 Office Action is a non-final office action, but page 33 of the Office Action indicates that it is a final office action.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 43-45 and 67-72 are pending in this application, with Claims 43, 67, and 70 being the independent claims. Claims 1-37, 46-47, and 49-66 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 43 has been amended and Claim 67-72 have been added. Applicants submit that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claim 46 was objected to but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have incorporated the features recited in Claim 46 into independent Claim 43, thereby effectively rewriting Claim 46 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claim 43 is allowable, together with Claims 44 and 45 depending therefrom.

Independent Claims 67 and 70 are, respectively, a method claim and a computer program product claim corresponding to Claim 43 and reciting corresponding elements. Applicants submit that Claims 67 and 70 (and their dependent claims) are patentable for the same reasons as Claims 43-45. Accordingly, Applicants request entry of this Amendment even if the August 16, 2005 Office Action is intended to be a final Office Action.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and objections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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